

Service Date: September 9, 2003

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	UTILITY DIVISION
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, Application	)	
For Authority to Establish Rates for Monthly	)	DOCKET NO. D2003.8.115
Projected Electric Supply Cost	)	ORDER NO. 6506

PROTECTIVE ORDER

On August 18, 2003 Northwestern Energy (NWE) filed a Motion for Protective Order to govern certain information expected to be filed in the above-entitled proceeding. NWE requests protection of information relating to electric supply. NWE argues that the identified information is trade secret in accordance with § 30-14-402, MCA.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) determines NWE has shown good and sufficient cause in fact and law that the information for which protection is requested is entitled to protection from uncontrolled public disclosure pursuant to § 69-3-105, MCA. Therefore, the PSC grants NWE's request and hereby orders that information submitted in accordance with this Order be treated as "confidential information" under the terms of this Order and PSC protective order rules, ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030.

To avoid the situation where NWE must repeatedly apply for a protective order regarding NWE's monthly projected electric supply cost, this Protective Order applies to all future NWE monthly projected electric supply cost filings. This Protective Order is subject to challenge in accordance with PSC protective order rules and, given the ongoing applicability of this Protective Order, is also subject to modification (with notice) if conditions change or the need otherwise arises.

Done and dated this 8th day of September, 2003, by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BOB ROWE, Chairman

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

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GREG JERGSON, Commissioner

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JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: There is no reconsideration of the granting of a protective order. There is a procedure to challenge the provider's claim of confidentiality. See ARM 38.2.5008.

Montana Public Service Commission  
Protective Orders and Protection of Confidential Information

## **Nondisclosure Agreement**

(7-26-00)

ARM 38.2.5012

Docket No. D2003.8.115, Order No. 6506  
Order Action Date: September 9, 2003

I understand that in my capacity as counsel or expert witness for a party to this proceeding before the commission, or as a person otherwise lawfully so entitled, I may be called upon to access, review, and analyze information which is protected as confidential information. I have reviewed ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030 (commission rules applicable to protection of confidential information) and protective orders governing the protected information that I am entitled to receive. I fully understand, and agree to comply with and be bound by, the terms and conditions thereof. I will neither use nor disclose confidential information except for lawful purposes in accordance with the governing protective order and ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030 so long as such information remains protected.

I understand that this nondisclosure agreement may be copied and distributed to any person having an interest in it and that it may be retained at the offices of the provider, commission, consumer counsel, any party and may be further and freely distributed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

Business Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Party Represented